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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Bull

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(54) **VARIETY OF *RUDEBECKIA* PLANT NAMED**
‘BULLRUDI 06’

(50) Latin Name: ***Rudbeckia hirta* L.**
Varietal Denomination: **BullRudi 06**

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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./474**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *rudbeckia* plant having a compact growth habit with numerous long-lasting and large blooms.

2 Drawing Sheets

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/386,453, filed Dec. 2, 2015, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Botanical classification: *Rudbeckia hirta* L.
Varietal denomination: ‘BullRudi 06’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *rudbeckia* plant known by the varietal name ‘BullRudi 06’. The new variety was discovered in October of 2013 in Gönnebeck, Germany as the result of a planned breeding program with the purposes of providing *rudbeckia* plants with improved growth, foliage, and blooms, including developing new color combinations of *rudbeckia* blooms. The new variety is the result of cross between an unpatented *Rudbeckia hirta* L. variety having an internal breeder’s reference of “Bull M 2011-01” (female parent) and an unpatented *Rudbeckia hirta* L. variety having an internal breeder’s reference of “Bull M 2011-02” (male parent) from the breeder’s own collection. The new variety is similar to its parental varieties in botanical classification, but exhibits a more compact growth habit, cleaner foliage, and longer lasting and larger blooms than both of its parental varieties. When ‘BullRudi 06’ is compared to *Rudbeckia hirta* L. variety named ‘Prärie Sun’ (unpatented), ‘BullRudi 06’ is similar to ‘Prärie Sun’ in botanical classification, but ‘BullRudi 06’ exhibits improved plant quality, plant strength, growth, foliage, and larger blooms that differ in color from those of ‘Prärie Sun’. Further, the following characteristics distinguish ‘BullRudi 06’ when generally compared to other *rudbeckia* varieties known to the breeder:

- Good self-branching;
- An upright and compact growth habit;

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Healthy, clean, and medium-sized foliage;
Long-lasting and large blooms; and
Differing bloom color.

‘BullRudi 06’ has been trial and field tested and has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type through successive propagations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the new variety at 18 weeks of age, with the color being as nearly true as is possible with color illustrations of this type: FIG. 1 shows an entire plant of the new variety; and FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of a bloom of the new variety.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth the characteristics of the new variety as the result of asexual reproductions performed via in vitro tissue culture in October of 2013 carried out in Gönnebeck, Germany. Plants of the new variety were grown outdoors in 21 cm (4 liter) pots and the color readings and measurements were observed under natural light on 18 week old plants in Gönnebeck, Germany. Color references are primarily to The 2001 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

PLANT

- Time to initiate roots: About 7-10 days at approximately 18° C.
- Time to develop roots: About 38-45 days at approximately 16-18° C.
- Time to produce a finished flowering plant from a rooted cutting: About 12-14 weeks in a 21 cm container.
- Rooting habit: Exhibits numerous roots of medium thickness that are freely branching and healthy in color.

Plant height: About 50-65 cm.
 Plant width: About 35-45 cm.
 Vigor: Medium, with a compact growth habit.
 Disease/pest resistance: Nothing unusual noted to date.
 Temperature tolerance: From -5 to +40° C.
 Drought tolerance: Average.
 Branching habit: Exhibits one dominant strong branch with the biggest bloom and a few lateral side branches. All branches are upright, forming a nice round habit.
 Branches (flowering stems):
Number per plant.—8-15.
Length.—8-20 cm.
Diameter.—6-10 mm.
Internode length.—2-10 cm.
Angle.—Upright.
Strength.—Strong.
Texture.—Stable, with pubescence present.
Color.—Approximately Green Group RHS 137C with several red spots.

Foliage:

Arrangement.—Alternate and simple.
Leaf.—Length: 9-22 cm. Width: 2-9 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Attenuate to acute. Margin: Dentate and undulate. Texture: Upper surface: Rough, with pubescence present. Lower surface: Rough, with pubescence present. Color: Young leaves: Upper surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 137C. Lower surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138B. Mature leaves: Upper surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 137C, with some reddish-brown spots present. Lower surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138B, with some reddish-brown spots present. Petiole: None present. Veins: Venation type: Pinnate. Color: Upper surface: Approximately Yellow-Green Group RHS 145C. Lower surface: Approximately Yellow-Green Group RHS 145B.

INFLORESCENCE

Bud:

Shape.—Elliptic-shaped ray florets and tubular-shaped disc florets.
Diameter.—At least 3-5 cm.
Length.—At least 3 cm.
Color.—Approximately Yellow-Green Group RHS 151B.

Natural flowering season: Flowering occurs from the end of June to the middle of October in Germany, beginning approximately 10-12 weeks after planting.

Average number of inflorescences per plant: Numerous, 20-50.

Average number of inflorescences per branch: From 1-5.

Disc and ray floret arrangement: Disc florets are arranged in the middle of the receptacle of the inflorescence with ray florets extending outwardly therefrom.

Fragrance: Stable.

Inflorescence:

Diameter.—10-16 cm.
Height (depth).—2-3 cm.
Diameter of disc.—2.5-3.5 cm.
Receptacle height.—1-1.5 cm.
Receptacle diameter.—4-7 cm.

Ray florets:

Number per inflorescence.—15-20.
Arrangement.—In one or two whorls.
Length.—4-7 cm.
Width.—2-3 cm.
Shape.—Elliptical.
Apex.—Emarginate.
Base.—Acute.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Upper surface: Smooth and glabrous. Lower surface: Rough.

Color.—When opening: Upper surface: Approximately Yellow-Orange Group RHS 17A, with a bit of brown (approximately Brown Group RHS 200A) toward the base. Lower surface: Approximately Yellow-Orange Group RHS 15B, with a light shimmer of green. At maturity: Upper surface: Approximately Yellow-Orange Group RHS 17A from the middle to the apex, mixed with approximately Brown Group RHS 200A from the middle to the base. Lower surface: Approximately Yellow-Orange Group RHS 15B, with a light shimmer of reddish-brown toward the base. Ground color description: Approximately Yellow-Orange Group RHS 17A from the middle to the apex, mixed with approximately Brown Group RHS 200A from the middle to the base.

Venation.—Appearance: Parallel. Color: Upper surface: Same color as the florets. Lower surface: Same color as the florets.

Disc florets:

Number per inflorescence.—Numerous; too many to quantify.
Arrangement.—In the center of receptacle.
Length.—About 5-10 mm.
Width.—About 1 mm.
Shape.—Tubular.
Apex.—Five-pointed.
Color.—Immature: Approximately Brown Group RHS 200A. At maturity: Approximately Brown Group RHS 200A.

Phyllaries:

Number per inflorescence.—20-35.
Arrangement.—In about three whorls.
Length.—1-3 cm.
Width.—3-8 mm.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Apex.—Elongated oval.
Base.—Fused.
Margin.—Undulate.
Texture.—Upper surface: Rough, with pubescence present. Lower surface: Rough, with pubescence present.

Color.—Immature: Upper surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138A. Lower surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138B. At maturity: Upper surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138A. Lower surface: Approximately Green Group RHS 138B.

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Presence: On ray and disc florets. Number (per floret): Numerous. Filament length: 1-2 mm.

Filament color: Approximately Brown Group RHS 200A. Anther: Shape: Round. Length: 1 mm. Color: Approximately Brown Group RHS 200A. Pollen: Color: Yellow. Amount: Plentiful; too much to quantify.

Gynoecium.—Presence: In ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 2 mm. Stigma: Shape: Two-parted. Color: Approximately Brown Group RHS 200B. Style: Length: 1-2 mm. Color: Brown.

Seeds:

Shape.—Oval.

Overall size.—Approximately 2 mm.

Color.—Approximately Black Group RHS 202A.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *rudbeckia* plant named 'BullRudi 06', as is herein illustrated and described.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2